

Special Interest Articles:

- Restoration Fundraiser
- Millerville Mill
- Veterans' Corner – Greenquist & Klimek

Individual Highlights:

- Bremer Grant
- REA Round-Up Grant
- Special Thanks

Brandon History Center

History Center Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center held its first annual meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at the Brandon Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President Chris Korkowski at 7 p.m.

Items of business included an amendment to the by-laws regarding length of terms and the election of Chris Korkowski, Karen Thoennes, and Janet Nelson in accordance with the bylaw change.

A copy of the financial report was read and approved and is on file at the History Center Office.

Informational reports were presented regarding the Millerville history report, an update by our president, office re-organization and archiving, the new veterans' display, development of the History Center newsletter, and the auditorium restoration project.

A drawing for door prizes followed.

After adjournment, those in attendance enjoyed a social time with coffee and goodies served by the Board members.

It was evident that those in attendance were very supportive of our local history center.

The next annual meeting will be held in the fall of 2010.

Auditorium Restoration Fundraiser—February 12

Do you remember last year's restoration project fundraiser? What a fun and successful evening!

The Brandon History Center will co-sponsor a restoration fundraiser with area churches on February 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. at our "grand old hall." This year's event will be a chili cook-off between individuals and organizations who will be competing for bragging rights and special plaques.

Judge's Choice and People's Choice winners

will be selected.

Attendees will be able to taste as many kinds of chili as they can handle and help select the People's Choice winner.

Celebrity judges include Dennis Anhalt, Joe Korkowski, Lonnie Wing, and Patty Wicken

Teams registered are:
Brandon Lions Club
Hot Mamas
Ravishing Rubies
Brandon Fire Department
Millerville Fire Department
Brandon School
Bremer Bank

Gardonville/Brandon Communications (2)
Orb Management Corp.
Design Tree Engineering
Echo Press

The cost will be \$8 for adults; \$3 for kids 4-9; and kids 3 and under eat free! There will be a dessert bar; good music provided by Bob Piotrowski, and time for good old-fashioned socializing.

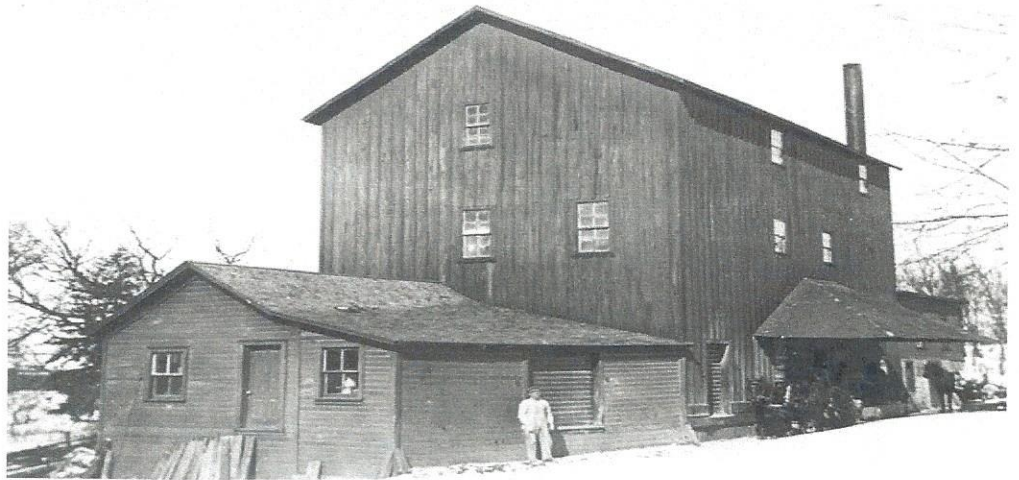
Flyers are posted around our community. Advance tickets are available at Bob's Adium and Moe Insurance in Brandon and Bernie's Gas in Millerville.

The Center Piece

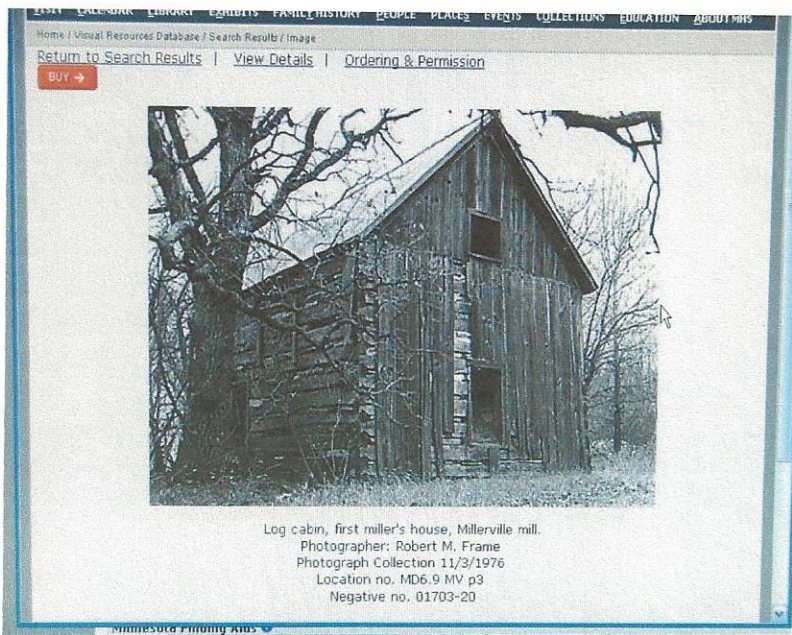
The Millerville Mill



*The Old Millerville Mill
6-bedroom House –
picture taken in 1947.*



Original Millerville Mill Building



*This log cabin was the
first miller's house
located at the Millerville
Mill Site.*

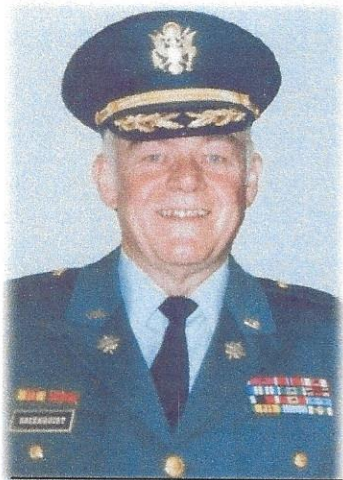


*Millerville Dam – a water
wheel was used to
power the mill.*

*The Old Mill Story will be found
on Page 3.*

The Center Piece

Veterans' Corner – Bud Greenquist



Myron "Bud" Greenquist, a member of Argonne Forest Post 278, died October 25, 2009, at the age of 79 years.

The Brandon History Center came about through his encouragement and dedication to preserving our history.

Bud was born August 25, 1930, in Evansville to Lars and Emma (Berglund) Greenquist. He grew up on the family farm and was baptized, confirmed and schooled in Evansville.

At 18, Bud enlisted in the U.S. Army, served in post-war occupation of Tokyo and then on the Korean peninsula. Bud was transferred back to the states in 1952 and in December he married Florence Hanson in Breckenridge.

Next came tours in California and Ethiopia. In 1957, he was commissioned 2nd lieutenant at Fort Benning, GA, and assigned to the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, MD. In 1960 he was assigned to a tour in Okinawa and later reassigned with NSA.

Bud attended evening classes with the University of Maryland and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in military studies in 1965.

Bud served his first tour in Vietnam from 1965-66; then to the Army Intelligence and Security Command in Arlington, VA. In 1968-69 he attended Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and was subsequently assigned to the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon for three years. In 1972 he returned to Vietnam as a deputy commander during the U.S. draw-down of forces.

In 1974, after 26 years of serving his country, Bud retired as a regular Army Lt. Col. During his career he received numerous awards, including a Bronze Star, 2 Legions of

Merit, and 2 Meritorious Service medals.

Bud and Florence returned to Minnesota and settled near Brandon. They were active at Grace Church, American Legion, Lions, and various other community organizations. Bud managed the Douglas County Fair for 7 years, and served as a director of both the Evansville Historical Foundation and Douglas County Historical Society. Bud researched, wrote and published two books of family history, along with numerous history articles for the Evansville newspaper.

In 2006, Bud and Florence moved to Alexandria. Bud is survived by his wife, Florence; 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren; a brother and twin sister.



Thanks to the Klimek family for allowing us to display Norbert's uniform. The stitching on the sleeve is unique.

Veterans' Corner – Norbert Klimek

Norbert was drafted into the U.S. Navy April 26, 1945, and trained at the U.S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois. He was sent to Camp Endicott, RI. After a short leave, he traveled by troop train to California. On Aug. 22, he left the states on the U.S.S. Sea Ray, which stopped at the Marshall and Philippine Islands. The trip took 32 days.

Norbert shipped out on Oct. 25 to China on the U.S.S. Rock Bridge. The seas were rough, and they

encountered three mines which they managed to avoid while the DE exploded them. Two of the mines were duds but the third one active.

Norbert landed at Tsingtao, China, on Nov. 1, 1945. He was assigned as a barber and kept very busy cutting hair. Having a Priest with them, Norbert was able to attend Mass often.

Norbert got a new rating as Electrician's Mate 3/C. They had inspections often. Sailors were able to

finish their tour of duty by the point system. Norbert came home on the ship U.S.S. Gen. Butler and arrived in Minneapolis on April 26. Norbert had two brothers in the army and one sister in the Waves. His wife Regina has taken care of Norbert's uniform for sixty-four years.



Millerville Mill – The Dobmeyer & DeLeeuw Years

The old Millerville Mill ceased operation in January of 1982.

George Dobmeyer, a trained miller who immigrated from Germany in 1866, purchased 252 acres of land; and after his father joined him in 1868, they constructed a dam on the Chippewa River for the Dobmeyer Mill.

In 1885, at the age of 17, George's son, Ferdinand, became the sole owner of the Dobmeyer Mill.

Dobmeyer installed a steam power plant in the flour mill to supplement the power turbine installed by

his father. The two turbine-powered millstones originally installed ground the farmers wheat into flour. In 1936, Dobmeyer installed a diesel power plant to replace the steam plant. He operated the Mill under the trade name of Millerville Flour Mill from 1889 to 1947.

Steel rollers were also installed to replace the millstones. Electricity was installed to power the grinding machinery.

Improvements were made to the six-bedroom home which was built to replace the rustic cabin structure.

After 60 years of milling, Ferdinand Dobmeyer sold the business and his home to George and Helen DeLeeuw, who continued the milling business at the Millerville Mill for 27 years. They ground their last flour in the fall of 1953 and spring of 1954.

They then changed the focus of their business to grinding and mixing feed for area farmers.

The DeLeeuws took wheat in exchange for flour, as well as taking other items in exchange for flour. The bookkeeping must have been rather complicated.

Millerville Mill – The Green Years

In 1974 the DeLeeuws retired on Lake Aaron and sold the Mill to Bob and Pam Green.

During the time that Greens operated the business, the Mill ended up as a feed store. Feed was trucked in and retailed to the customer.

The Greens raised their family in the old six-bedroom home.

The Greens closed the Mill on January 1, 1982, which was 109 years after originally constructed.

The large house and the Mill no longer stand.

The water continues to tumble over the spillway and over the rocks in the Chippewa River, reminding us of the usefulness, productivity, and the pleasant sound of the power provided by the dam.

It is hard to imagine that three families operated the Mill during the 109 years of its existence.

"Milling was a lot of work, but we also had fun during those years at the mill. With six bedrooms in the house we enjoyed entertaining a lot of company. The buildings were all red, except for the house, when we purchased the mill. We painted them all white in 1951. It was an attractive set-up!"

Helen DeLeeuw

Bremer Bank Awards Grant to Hall Renovation

The Brandon Auditorium restoration project was recently awarded a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation in the amount of \$40,000 toward the project.

The grant represents a major donation for a project that the entire Brandon community has been planning and supporting for years.

The city of Brandon is continuing to work on other grants to help with renovation and restoration costs. The Bremer funding definitely is a big boost to our fundraising efforts.

It is likely that the grant

proceeds would be used in making improvements to the interior of the building..

"The Hall" is really the community center for the Brandon area, which is Bremer Foundation uses as part of its criteria in awarding grants.

Through the decades, the building has provided vivid memories for generations of families by housing all kinds of social and civic events.

The auditorium is still used for many purposes today, and serves as home to the Brandon History Center.

Some renovations, such as new windows, took place in 1991, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to help build and maintain vibrant communities and is based on the vision and legacy of Otto Bremer.

The Otto Bremer Foundation owns the majority share of Bremer Bank. Some of the bank's profits are allotted to the Foundation as dividends, allowing the Foundation to reinvest in the communities in which their banks are located.

History Center Receives Operation Roundup Grant

On December 3, 2009, members of the Brandon History Center were present at the distribution of the Runestone Electric Association Round-Up Funds.

The Brandon History Center was presented with a check for \$500.00. This grant will be used to purchase Archival-Safe storage supplies, which are used to safeguard the precious original pictures and documents that have been given to the Center for preservation and display.

Pictured left to right are:

Jeff Drier and Jerome Hagen, REA Round-up Board members; History Center Board members, Hilda Betterman and Christella Korkowski; and Carla Beem, REA Round-Up Board member.

According to Round-Up criteria, applicants are allowed to re-apply for grant moneys once every year.

Thank you, Operation Round-up!

Fundraising for our History Center is an ongoing effort. The Board appreciates the generosity of organizations and individuals who help us keep the History Center operational.



*Operation Round-Up
Grant Award –
December 3, 2009*

Brandon History Center

105 Holmes Avenue
P. O. Box 514
Brandon, MN 56315

PHONE:
(320) 524-2260

E-MAIL:
brandonhistory@gctel.net

BOARD MEMBERS:

Hilda Bettermann
Florence Bitzan
Marcia Bolin
Christella Korkowski
Janet Nelson
Ruth Plaster
Karen Thoennes

Blog:

<http://brandonmnhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.brandonmn.com

BRANDON HISTORY CENTER

105 Holmes Avenue
P. O. Box 514
Brandon, MN 56315

Mission Statement

To collect, preserve and display articles, pictures and memorabilia from Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

To assist in the preservation of the Historic Brandon Auditorium and other local historic sites.

Thank You's

Thank you to Florence Greenquist and others who donated to the Brandon History Center in memory of a friend of the History Center, Bud Greenquist.

Thank you also to Eugene Stene for his donation in memory of his parents, Eldor and Alma Stene.

These gifts are very much appreciated and are a wonderful way to honor your loved ones.

Special thanks also to Delphin and Gertie Engel for their \$100 donation.

These contributions will be memorialized on the plaques on display at the History Center.

About Our Organization...

The Brandon History Center changed from a dream to a reality on August 28, 2007, when it received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Because we are a non-profit organization, contributions are tax-deductible.

Consider making a contribution of \$100 or more. Your gift will be recog-

nized by name on our contributor plaques.

Also make use of our three membership options: Individual or family one-year memberships or single life membership

